

Connecticut Avenue NW Reversible Lane Safety and Operations Study

Environmental Conditions Inventory Report

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1 STUDY DESCRIPTION

Connecticut Avenue NW is a six-lane roadway in NW Washington DC. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, from 7:00-9:30 AM and 4:00-6:30 PM, a two-lane reversible lane system operated along Connecticut Avenue NW. This system extended for approximately 2.7 miles through the neighborhoods of Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, and Woodley Park, to manage the utilization of the six travel lanes. The reversible system operates as four southbound lanes in the morning peak period and four northbound lanes during the afternoon peak period, with the two middle lanes reversing during these peak periods. Poll-mounted dynamic and static signing adjacent to the outside lanes provided instruction to motorists on how to utilize the reversible lane system and the correct lanes of travel when in operation. During peak periods, parking and commercial loading is prohibited; however, bus stops remain in service. Prior to the Pandemic, during non-peak periods, Connecticut Avenue NW operated with two travel lanes in each direction with the outside lane is allocated for bus stops, parking, and commercial loading.

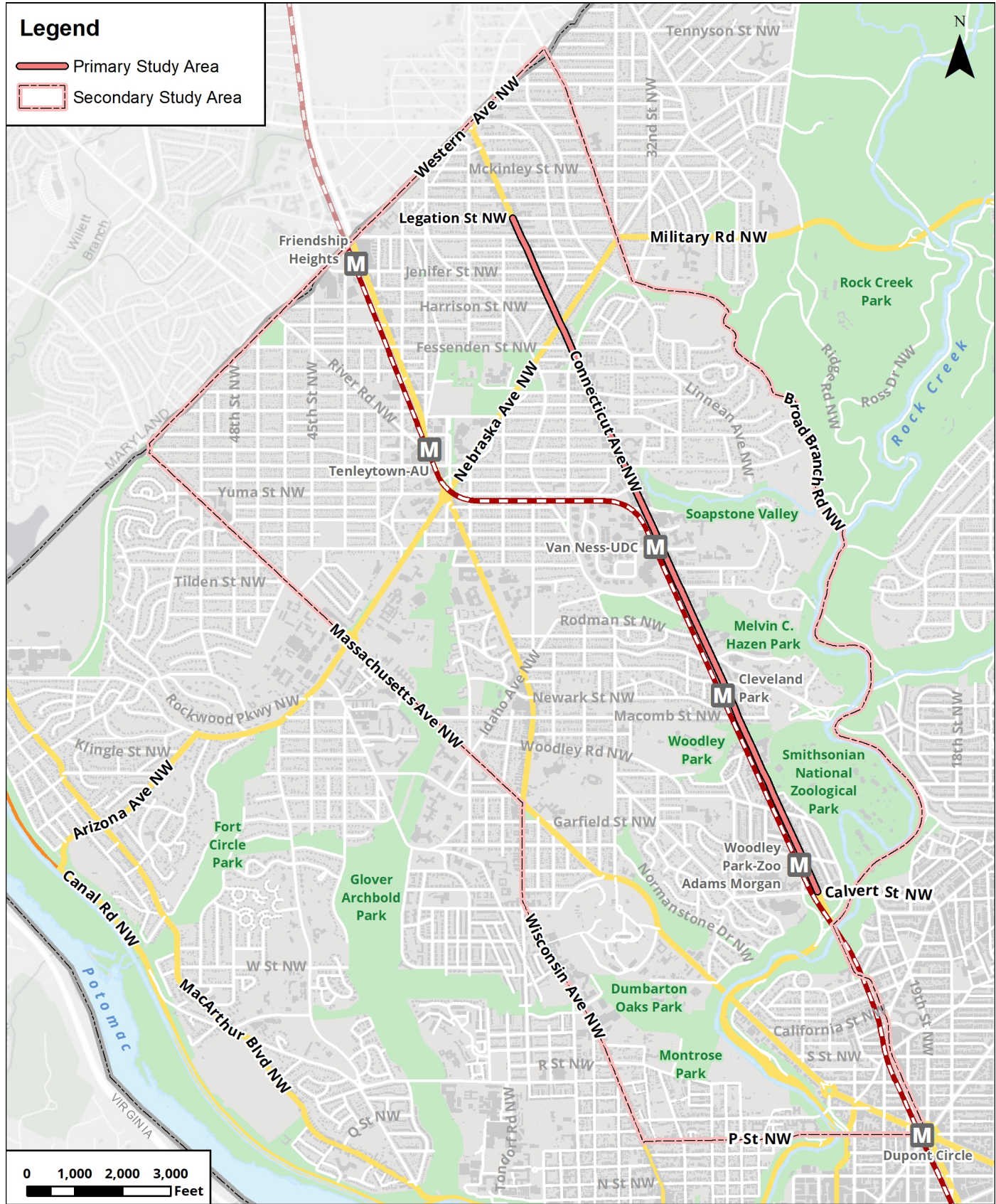
The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is studying the feasibility of removing the reversible lane system as part of the city’s Vision Zero initiative, which aims to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2024. The purpose of the Connecticut Avenue NW Reversible Lane Safety and Operations Study is to assess the multimodal (vehicular, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian) operational and safety impacts associated with removing or maintaining/improving the existing reversible lane system along Connecticut Avenue NW. Should the removal of the reversible lanes be recommended for implementation, environmental documentation (i.e., a Level 3 Categorical Exclusion) may be prepared, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and associated environmental regulations.



Typical reversible lane signage along Connecticut Avenue NW.



Typical parking restriction signage along Connecticut Avenue NW.



STUDY AREAS

Figure 1 depicts the study areas. The “primary study area” encompasses the Connecticut Avenue NW corridor from Legation Street NW to Calvert Street NW, which is the physical footprint of the concepts that are being considered in the study. The “secondary study area” encompasses the area bounded by Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues NW to the west, Broad Branch Road NW to the east, Dupont Circle and P Street NW to the south, and Western Avenue NW to the north. This secondary study area is the area within which operational impacts on adjacent arterials of the potential concepts for Connecticut Avenue NW are being considered.

PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS INVENTORY

The purpose of this report is to inventory the environmental resources in the primary and secondary study areas that could be affected by the proposed action. Information on the following environmental resources are presented in this report:

- Land Use and Community Facilities
- Visual Context
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- Cultural Resources
- Water Resources and Water Quality
- Wildlife, including Threatened or Endangered Species
- Socioeconomics
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Air Quality

Information was gathered from federal, District, and local sources; aerial photography; geographic information system (GIS) databases; and a site visit to the study area. References are provided in Section 3.

A description and evaluation of existing transportation facilities, including traffic, safety, parking, and pedestrian data, is provided in the Existing Conditions Report prepared for the study.